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## Letters

### Extending credit

The actual experiment discussed in "A constellation of thermometers" (SN: 3/2/96, p. 143) was put together and led by Randolph Ware and Mike Exner of the Universities Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and funded in large part by the National Science Foundation. This and other assistance from UCAR was not mentioned in your article, and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge it.

*E. Robert Kursinski  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
Pasadena, Calif.*

### The root of the decay problem?

"Survey finds gaps in kids' dental care" (SN: 3/16/96, p. 165) has a gap of its own. The government survey mentioned seems to attribute high incidences of tooth decay to cutbacks in Medicaid and lack of insurance, but how about mentioning how these teeth got rotten in the first place: poor dental hygiene!

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Cover: Comet Hyakutake, as seen near Casa Grande, Ariz., on March 25, the day this icy wayfarer passed closest to Earth. The comet is now departing from the inner solar system but has left behind several mysteries for astronomers to solve. (Photograph: Ken Matesich)

### 350 Biological Warfare

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It seems obvious that, aside from a few dollars for a toothbrush and some toothpaste, income status needn't have much effect on getting a good brushing.

*Jodee D. Bray  
Roland J. Couture  
Portland, Ore.*

**It has been** my experience after 27 years in private dental practice that the main access problem regarding children's dental care is their parents' unwillingness to properly care for their teeth.

I, and I'm sure many of my colleagues, donate dental services to underprivileged children, but in many cases the parents won't even take the time to bring them in. If they do, it is the exceptional case where proper home

care is given to protect the work done and prevent further decay.

*Robert J. Carbon  
Thibodaux, La.*

### Setting things rightside up

"Tracking the bright comet Hyakutake" (SN: 3/23/96, p. 183) contains a sky map and instructions to hold the map upside down when using it. This is incorrect.

Also, the article quotes Daniel Green as saying the comet should form a brilliant tail by mid-April and be as bright as Jupiter by the third week of April. Comets are known to be unpredictable, and I am surprised that Green made this prediction, even with the qualifier "should." Was he misquoted?

*Tom Hoffelder  
Half Moon Bay, Calif.*

## CORRECTION

*The Geshen Benot Ya'akov archaeological site in Israel ("Ancient Israeli implements: Out of Africa," SN: 3/23/96, p. 183) is located 6 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, not the Red Sea.*

*The instructions might have been clearer if they had told readers to hold the map "over your head" when using it. As to Green, he was not misquoted.*

— R. Cowen